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Lawmakers announce M-59 project is a “go”

Transportation project will mean more efficient, quicker travel

LANSING—Legislative Republicans today announced an agreement had been reached with the governor’s office to restore or advance transportation projects that will provide jobs and economic opportunities for many communities statewide.

The projects include congestion relief, safety improvements, public transportation initiatives and recreational facilities.

State Sen. Mike Bishop said the agreement is good news for the 12th District because it will provide better travel on M-59 and increased economic opportunities.

“There are certain roads that need four lanes,” said Bishop, R-Rochester. “This section of M-59 definitely qualifies. The residents of my district will see much improved traffic between Oakland and Macomb counties as a result of this plan. This will benefit everyone from commuters to corporations, which means a potential boon for the local economy.”

The project provides \$3 million for a lane-expansion plan to add an eastbound and westbound lane to M-59 from Crooks Road to Ryan Road. The stretch of highway reaches from eastern Oakland County into western Macomb county.

House Majority Whip Brian Palmer, R-Romeo, said the expansion of M-59 is great news for Macomb County.

“Additional lanes on M-59 will help relieve traffic congestion and get area residents to their jobs and homes quicker,” said Palmer. “It’s always good news to hear that our local roads are getting much-needed attention.”

State Rep. Tory Rocca also applauded the announcement.

“Adding additional lanes on M-59 will benefit all residents of Sterling Heights and Utica,” said Rocca, R-Sterling Heights. “Eliminating traffic congestion makes life easier for people who have to drive during rush hour, and makes our area more attractive to job providers. I am glad that after years of fighting red tape, we were able to get approval for this project.”

Gov. Granholm said: “Today’s announcement is about driving job creation in Michigan and paving the way for growth all across our state. From going anywhere and doing anything to attract jobs to Michigan, to investing in the infrastructure that supports commerce, we have a targeted economic road map, and it’s moving Michigan in the right direction.”

The lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for these projects in the next few weeks.